Remarks

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been objected to. Claims 1-10 have been rejected.

Claim 1 was objected to because of minor informalities. Applicant has made the appropriate correction.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,914,748, in view of Brady et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,684,898.

As amended claim 1 requires that the probability function for each pixel be calculated 'directly from a formula.' It is believed that this overcomes the Examiner's concerns about the tern 'directly' being too broad. The combination of references teaches using a look up table (see Brady on column 8, lines 8-11, the other references do not make a probability determination). First, using a look-up table is not 'calculating' a probability, and second, the combination of references does not teach this.

The term 'calculating' in its usual meaning is typically defined as "determining by mathematical processes,' (Merriam-Webster, 2004). It is not believed that indexing into a table and selecting a value based upon an index automatically, as is done in a look-up table process, is 'performing a mathematical process.'

Further, the combination of references does not teach calculating the probability directly from a formula. As discussed in previous papers, there are advantages in calculating the probability directly for each pixel. It is therefore submitted that claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, and 10 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of these claims is requested.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski et al., in view of Brady et al., in further view of Gehrmann U.S. Patent No. 5,382,980.

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As claim 3 depends from claim 1, it therefore inherently includes the limitation of having the probability calculated 'directly from a formula.' As the combination of references only includes Brady to address the calculation of the probability, it is therefore submitted that claim 3 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of this claim is requested.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski et al., Brady et al. in further view of Jang U.S. Patent No. 5,825,909.

As claim 7 depends from claim 1, it therefore inherently includes the limitation of having the probability calculated 'directly from a formula.' As the combination of references only includes Brady to address the calculation of the probability, it is therefore submitted that claim 3 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of this claim is requested.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski et al., in view of Brady et al., in further view of Gardos et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,710,602.

As claim 8 depends from claim 1, it therefore inherently includes the limitation of having the probability calculated 'directly from a formula.' As the combination of references only includes Brady to address the calculation of the probability, it is therefore submitted that claim 3 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of this claim is requested.

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Conclusion

No new matter has been added by this amendment. Allowance of all claims is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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